

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)
10. (Currently Amended) A computer-based system for presenting a selected one of a plurality display screens comprising:
 - means for accessing a plurality of information sources;
 - means for generating a plurality of display screens ~~screen templates~~, each display screen ~~template~~ including at least one control, each control having at least one function associated therewith, each display screen ~~template~~ including at least one status indicator associated with a status indicator threshold;
 - ~~means for storing a plurality of display screen function databases, each display screen function database being associated with a respective one of said plurality of display screens, each display screen function database containing at least one record of a function associated with a control on said respective one of said plurality of display screens, each display screen function database containing at~~

~~least one record of a status indicator threshold associated with a status indicator control on said respective one of said plurality of display screens;~~
means for selecting one of said plurality of display screens ~~screen templates~~ for display;
means for selectively activating a status indicator on said selected one of said plurality of display screens ~~screen templates~~ based on information located in at least one of said information sources and on at least one status indicator threshold; ~~and~~
means responsive to a control on said selected one of said plurality of display screens ~~screen templates~~, for invoking a function associated with said control upon activation of said control; ~~and~~
means for linking an intermediate datasource to at least one additional information source, and wherein at least one of said plurality of information sources is an intermediate datasource.

11. (Original) A computer-based system for presenting a selected one of a plurality of display screens in accordance with claim 10, further comprising means for user authentication for controlling access to predetermined information sources based on user identification information.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) A computer-based system for presenting a selected one of a plurality of display screens in accordance with claim 10, wherein said function is an operation selected from the group consisting of a hyperlink, a script, a program, and a query.

17. (Currently Amended) A computer-based system for presenting a selected one of a plurality of display screens in accordance with claim 10, ~~wherein said at least one record of a function associated with a control on said respective one of said plurality of display screen templates contains~~ a plurality of status indicator thresholds are associated with a single status indicator, and wherein said means for selectively activating a status indicator on said selected

one of said plurality of display screens ~~screen templates~~ differentially activates said status indicator depending on a relationship between said information located in at least one of said information sources and a corresponding one of said plurality of status indicator thresholds.

18. (Original) A computer-based system for presenting a selected one of a plurality of display screens in accordance with claim 10, wherein said status indicator is capable of displaying more than two status indications.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A computer-based system for presenting a selected one of a plurality of display screens in accordance with claim 10 49, further comprising means, responsive to activation of said control, for displaying information based on information obtained from at least one of said plurality of information sources, in a said display region of said display screen.

21. (Currently Amended) A computer-based system for presenting a selected one of a plurality of display screens in accordance with claim 10 49, further comprising means, responsive to activation of said control, for displaying information based on information obtained from said intermediate datasource, in a said display region of said display screen.

22. (Currently Amended) A computer-based system for presenting a selected one of a plurality of display screens in accordance with claim 21, wherein said means for linking said intermediate datasource to at least one additional information source obtains information from said at least one additional information source and stores said thus obtained information in said intermediate datasource.

23. (Currently Amended) A computer-based system for presenting a selected one of a plurality of display screens in accordance with claim 21, wherein said means for linking said intermediate datasource to at least one additional information source periodically obtains information from said at least one additional information source and stores said thus periodically obtained information in said intermediate datasource.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) A computer-based system for presenting an information display screen, comprising:

a computer;

an interface device adapted to connect said computer to a plurality of information sources including an intermediate datasource;

a data link for providing a link between an information source and an intermediate datasource so that information in an information source can be provided to said intermediate datasource;

a computer readable medium containing computer executable code for generating a display screen template on said computer, said display screen template including at least one control, each said at least one control having at least one function associated therewith, said display screen template including at least one status indicator associated with a status indicator threshold;

~~a computer storage device for storing a display screen function database associated with said display screen template, said display screen function database containing at least one record of a function associated with a control on said display screen template, said display screen function database containing at least one record of a status indicator threshold; and~~

wherein said computer readable media containing computer executable code additionally includes computer executable code for:

selectively activating said status indicator based on information located in at least one of said information sources and on at least one status indicator threshold, and responding to activation of a control on said display screen template, for invoking a function associated with said control on said display screen template upon activation of said control.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) A computer-based system for presenting an information display screen in accordance with claim 26 25, wherein ~~said at least one record of a function associated with a control on said display screen template contains~~ a plurality of status indicator thresholds

are associated with a single status indicator, and wherein said computer readable media containing computer executable code additionally includes computer executable code for selectively activating said status indicator differentially depending on a relationship between said information located in at least one of said plurality of information sources or said intermediate datasource and a corresponding one of said plurality of status indicator thresholds.

28. (Currently Amended) A computer-based system for presenting an information display screen, comprising:

means for accessing a plurality of information sources, at least one of said information sources being an intermediate datasource;

means for linking said intermediate datasource to at least one additional information source;

means for generating a display screen ~~template~~, said display screen ~~template~~ including at least one control, each said at least one control having at least one function associated therewith, said display screen ~~template~~ including at least one status indicator associated with a status indicator threshold;

~~means for storing a display screen function database associated with said display screen template, said display screen function database containing at least one record of a function associated with a control on said display screen template, said display screen function database containing at least one record of a status indicator threshold;~~

means for selectively activating said status indicator based on information located in at least one of said information sources and on at least one status indicator threshold;
and

means responsive to a control on said display screen ~~template~~, for invoking a function associated with said control on said display screen ~~template~~ upon activation of said control.

29. (Original) A computer-based system for presenting an information display screen in accordance with claim 28, further comprising means for user authentication for controlling access to predetermined information sources based on user identification information.

30. (Currently Amended) A computer-based system for presenting an information display screen in accordance with claim 28, wherein said display screen ~~template~~ includes a display region for presenting selected information to a user upon activation of said control.

31. (Canceled)

32. (Canceled)

33. (Canceled)

34. (Original) A computer-based system for presenting an information display screen in accordance with claim 28, wherein said function is an operation selected from the group consisting of a hyperlink, a script, a program, and a query.

35. (Currently Amended) A computer-based system for presenting an information display screen in accordance with claim 28, wherein ~~said at least one record of a function associated with a control on said display screen template contains~~ a plurality of status indicator thresholds are associated with a single status indicator, and wherein said means for selectively activating said status indicator differentially activates said status indicator depending on a relationship between said information located in at least one of said information sources and a corresponding one of said plurality of status indicator thresholds.

36. (Original) A computer-based system for presenting an information display screen in accordance with claim 27, wherein said status indicator is capable of displaying more than two status indications.

37. (Original) A computer-based system for presenting an information display screen in accordance with claim 27, further comprising means, responsive to activation of said control, for displaying information based on information obtained from at least one of said plurality of information sources, in said display region.

38. (Original) A computer-based system for presenting an information display screen in accordance with claim 27, further comprising means, responsive to activation of said control, for displaying information based on information obtained from said intermediate datasource, in said display region.

39. (Original) A computer-based system for presenting an information display screen in accordance with claim 38, wherein said means for linking said intermediate datasource to at least one additional information source obtains information from said at least one additional information and stores said thus obtained information in said intermediate datasource.

40. (Original) A computer-based system for presenting an information display screen in accordance with claim 38, wherein said means for linking said intermediate datasource to at least one additional information source periodically obtains information from said at least one additional information and stores said thus periodically obtained information in said intermediate datasource.

41. (Currently Amended) A computer-based system for presenting an information display screen, comprising:

a computer;

an interface device adapted to connect said computer to a plurality of information sources;

a computer readable medium containing computer executable code for generating a display screen ~~template~~, said display screen ~~template~~ including at least one control, each said at least one control having at least one function associated therewith, said display screen ~~template~~ including at least one status indicator associated with a status indicator threshold, said display screen ~~template~~ further including a display region for presenting selected information to a user upon activation of said control;

~~a computer storage device for storing a display screen function database associated with said display screen template, said display screen function database containing at least one record of a function associated with a control on said display screen template, said display screen function database containing at least one record of a status indicator threshold;~~

a data link for providing a link between an information source and an intermediate datasource so that information in an information source can be provided to said intermediate datasource, and

wherein said interface device is adapted to connect said computer to a plurality of information sources including an intermediate datasource; and

wherein said computer readable media containing computer executable code additionally includes computer executable code for:

selectively activating said status indicator based on information located in at least one of said information sources and on at least one status indicator threshold, and

responding to activation of a control on said display screen ~~template~~, for generating a multi-axis scorecard display based on data stored in at least one of said plurality of information sources and presenting said scorecard display in said display region upon activation of said control.

42. (Canceled)

43. (Currently Amended) A computer-based system for presenting an information display screen in accordance with claim 41 42, wherein said computer executable code for generating a multi-axis scorecard display is adapted to generate a multi-axis scorecard display based on data stored in at least one of said plurality of information sources and on data stored in said intermediate datasource.

44. (Original) A computer-based system for presenting an information display screen in accordance with claim 41, wherein said computer executable code for generating a multi-axis scorecard display is adapted to generate a multi-axis scorecard display based on data stored in at least two of said plurality of information sources.

45. (Canceled)

46. (Canceled)

47. (Canceled)

48. (New) A computer-implemented method, comprising:

receiving a user input to display information from a plurality of direct datasources, the direct data sources further comprising information of a plurality of data types, in successive, differing levels of detail; and
displaying the information from the intermediate datasource in accordance with the user input, the displayed information having been populated from the direct datasources.

49. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 48, wherein the user input includes receiving a selection of one of a hyperlink, a script, a program, and a query.

50. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 48, wherein the direct datasources comprise at least one of SAP databases, Oracle databases, flat file databases, SQL databases, XML databases, Btrieve databases, Access databases, FoxPro databases, Excel files, computer-aided design files, PowerPoint files, and TIF data sources.

51. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 48, wherein the data types include at least one of a database, a file, and a streaming data type.

52. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 48, wherein receiving the user input and displaying the information in successive, differing levels of detail includes:

displaying a first set of information including an indicator and a display function invoked upon selection of the indicator;

receiving a user input selecting the indicator and invoking the display function;

executing the display function to display a second set of information including a second indicator and a second display function invoked upon selection of the second indicator; and

iterating the receiving and the executing.

53. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 48, further comprising populating the intermediate datasource from the native datasources.

54. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 53, wherein populating the intermediate datasource includes one of copying the data, linking the data, and streaming the data from the native databases.

55. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 53, wherein populating the intermediate datasource includes assigning security protocols differing from those for the information in the native datasource.

56. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 53, wherein populating the intermediate datasource includes backing up at least a portion of the native datasources.

57. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 53, wherein populating the intermediate datasource includes translating the data type to another data type.

58. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 48, further comprising:
receiving a second user input to display information from the native datasources; and
displaying the information from the native datasources responsive to the second user input.

59. (New) A program storage medium encoded with instructions that, when executed by a computer, perform a method, the method comprising:

receiving a user input to display information from a plurality of direct datasources, the direct data sources further comprising information of a plurality of data types, in successive, differing levels of detail; and

displaying the information from the intermediate datasource in accordance with the user input, the displayed information having been populated from the direct datasources.

60. (New) The program storage medium of claim 59, wherein receiving the user input and displaying the information in successive, differing levels of detail includes:

displaying a first set of information including an indicator and a display function invoked upon selection of the indicator;

receiving a user input selecting the indicator and invoking the display function;

executing the display function to display a second set of information including a second indicator and a second display function invoked upon selection of the second indicator; and

iterating the receiving and the executing.

61. (New) The program storage medium of claim 59, further comprising populating the intermediate datasource from the native datasources.
62. (New) The program storage medium of claim 59, further comprising:
receiving a second user input to display information from the native datasources; and
displaying the information from the native datasources responsive to the second user input.
63. (New) A computer programmed to perform a method, the method comprising:
receiving a user input to display information from a plurality of direct datasources, the direct data sources further comprising information of a plurality of data types, in successive, differing levels of detail; and
displaying the information from the intermediate datasource in accordance with the user input, the displayed information having been populated from the direct datasources.
64. (New) The programmed computer of claim 63, wherein receiving the user input and displaying the information in successive, differing levels of detail includes:
displaying a first set of information including an indicator and a display function invoked upon selection of the indicator;
receiving a user input selecting the indicator and invoking the display function;
executing the display function to display a second set of information including a second indicator and a second display function invoked upon selection of the second indicator; and
iterating the receiving and the executing.
65. (New) The programmed computer of claim 63, further comprising populating the intermediate datasource from the native datasources.
66. (New) The programmed computer of claim 63, further comprising:
receiving a second user input to display information from the native datasources; and
displaying the information from the native datasources responsive to the second user input.

67. (New) A computing system, comprising:
a plurality of native datasources further comprising information of a plurality of data types;
an intermediate datasource populated from the native datasources;
a plurality of user computers; and
a utility responsive to input from the user computers to customize the interaction of users with information in the native datasources when invoked and, in each interaction, capable of:
receiving a user input to display information from the native datasources in successive, differing levels of detail; and
displaying the information from the intermediate datasource in accordance with the user input, the displayed information having been populated from the native datasources.
68. (New) The computing system of claim 67, wherein receiving the user input and displaying the information in successive, differing levels of detail includes:
displaying a first set of information including an indicator and a display function invoked upon selection of the indicator;
receiving a user input selecting the indicator and invoking the display function;
executing the display function to display a second set of information including a second indicator and a second display function invoked upon selection of the second indicator; and
iterating the receiving and the executing.
69. (New) The computing system of claim 67, further comprising populating the intermediate datasource from the native datasources.
70. (New) The computing system of claim 67, further comprising:
receiving a second user input to display information from the native datasources; and
displaying the information from the native datasources responsive to the second user input.